



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release No.: 62101-1  
Date: June 21, 2001  
Pages: TWO

## **PRESIDENT BUSH NAMES IAF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**ARLINGTON, Va. —** On May 18, President Bush designated Mr. Frank D. Yturria chair of the Inter-American Foundation and Ms. Patricia Hill Williams vice chair. The IAF is governed by a nine-member board of directors, all presidential appointees, three from the government and six from the private sector.

Mr. Yturria has been a member of the IAF board since in 1990 and was its chair during the administration of former President Bush. Renominated at the end of his term by President Clinton in 1996, Mr. Yturria is the only board member in the IAF's 31-year history to serve two consecutive terms. Previous public service includes his appointment by President Reagan to the Southern Pacific Commission and by President Eisenhower as collector of customs for Texas' 23<sup>rd</sup> district. Mr. Yturria is founding director and chairman of the board of Texas Bank and Trust and operates Yturria Ranch Enterprises in Brownsville.

“The citizens of the United States are anxious to help their neighbors to the south,” Mr. Yturria said after his most recent designation, “and the Inter-American Foundation is one of the vehicles for showing our good will and good neighborliness to the people of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America.”

Ms. Williams, who holds master’s degrees from the New York Institute of Technology and from State University of New York at Stony Brook, respectively, is vice president for external affairs at the State University of New York at Farmingdale. “I’m quite honored by the appointment,” said Ms. Williams who was named to the IAF board by President Clinton in 1994. “I’m pleased to be a part of the ongoing work of the Inter-American Foundation. Sustainable development has been very close to my heart.”

A volunteer in the field for nearly 20 years, Ms. Williams previously served on the African Development Foundation’s advisory board and on the international board of Partners of the Americas and was a W.K. Kellogg Fellow in International Development. She was appointed to the Presidential Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges by former President Bush in 1990; and to the U.S. Department of Education’s National Advisory Council on Women’s Education Programs by President Reagan in 1986.

Congress created the IAF in 1969 to provide assistance directly to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is the only U.S. government agency directly supporting self-help projects designed by poor people’s organizations. Since 1971, the IAF has funded more than 4,300 such projects throughout the region, many of them partnerships with non-governmental organizations, municipalities, universities, and local and multi-national businesses. The IAF constantly seeks out innovative means to bettering conditions in impoverished communities, most recently through the use of remittances (funds sent home by migrant workers abroad) to further development.

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